

## John “J.C.” Coffey

After graduating from the University of Notre Dame with a BS in Electrical Engineering in May 1986, JC was commissioned a Naval Officer through Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS) at NAS Pensacola, FL in January 1987. Upon commissioning, he began primary flight training at VT-27, NAS Corpus Christi, TX in February 1987, and was on the Commodore's List at his winging from VT-31 at NAS Corpus Christi, TX in June 1988. He reported to VP-30 at NAS Jacksonville, FL for initial maritime patrol aviation training. Upon graduation from the 'Pro's Nest' in November 1988, he joined VP-16 deploying to Bermuda, Sigonella, and Iceland. During his tenure with the "War Eagles," he acted as the Public Affairs Officer, Readiness Officer, and Pilot Training Officer, as well as, Special Project Mission Commander and Instructor Pilot.



Upon completion of his first sea tour in March 1992, JC joined VP-31 at NAS Moffett Field, CA, where he fulfilled the duties of FRS Instructor Pilot and Pilot Track Manager until joining VP-30, the Consolidated FRS, in January 1993 achieving every possible P-3 qualification. He received a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University graduating with honors.

JC departed VP-30 in June 1995 and joined USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64) at NAS North Island, San Diego, as a Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer, "Shooter." During this tour he sailed with USS NIMITZ and USS KITTY HAWK in support of their flight operations. While onboard USS CONSTELLATION, he was awarded the *Christian Laetner Award for Leadership*. He deployed with CONNIE to WESTPAC and the Arabian Gulf in April 1997 in support of Operation Southern Watch.

JC joined the staff of Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet as Flag Aide in June 1997, and reported to VP-45 as a Department Head in September 1998 where he deployed to Puerto Rico, Panama, Iceland, and Sicily. As Officer-in-Charge of Patrol Squadron Keflavik (PATRONKEF), his team intercepted the first Russian TU-56 "Bear" by any United States Forces in eight years, and Maintenance Officer of the team that won the coveted Golden Wrench Award for maintenance. While deployed to Sicily, he flew numerous intelligence, reconnaissance, and combat missions in the Balkans in support of Operations Joint Forge and Joint Guardian.

Joining the staff on Naval Air Systems Command in February 2001, he served as the Lead P-3 Class Desk and Weapons/T56 Engine Deputy Program Manager in PMA-290 onboard NAS Patuxent River, MD. While at Patuxent River, JC deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and is a "Plank Owner" of the Joint Special Operations Command's (JSOC) Campaign Support Group (CSG) where he served as Naval Aviation Warfare Specialist, Current Operations Director and Theater Team Leader.

He took charge of the Bureau of Naval Personnel's Sea Duty Components in Dallas and Pt Mugu in June 2004 supporting the Advanced Sensor Technology (AST) Program Office. His units have set new standards in operational acquisition with troops deployed to Qatar and Iraq in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the Littoral Surveillance Radar System (LSRS). The AST was awarded the Defense Acquisition Excellence Award in part for their efforts. He received a Master's Certificate in Government Contract Management from The George Washington University.

Reporting to the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in February 2007, he was the Director of Military Operations, after competing tours as Chief Staff Officer and Inspector General. His duties include assisting NRL and Department of the Defense scientists in the accomplishment of DOD scientific and research objectives, and acting as a liaison in the coordination of military assets to achieve NRL goals. He led VXS-1 deployments to and flew combat missions over Afghanistan, Iraq and Colombia for Operation Rampant Lion, the geospatial survey of the regions and is Chairman of the Interagency Coordinating Committee for Airborne Geosciences Research and Applications (ICCAGRA). He retired from the United States Navy in February 2011.

JC joined TriVector Service, Inc. as the Vice President of the Unmanned Systems Division, in support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program Office. He led the team that completed NOAA's first major UAS acquisition, and continues to support Global Hawk operations through NASA.

He is currently the Executive Director, Unmanned Systems for the Cherokee Nation Technologies where he established and leads their unmanned program supporting several inter-agency and industry organizations in advancing unmanned systems in worldwide operations including Polar ice-breaker support. He provides several governmental teams guidance for strategic and program planning, system test & evaluations, system engineering, program transition to operation. He is a guest lecturer, and has published several reports and articles on unmanned systems. He was awarded AUVSI's *2015 Member of the Year*.

JC has flown over 4,500 hours in the T-2, T-34, T-44, P-3, A-4, RC-12, H-2, H-46, H-52, H-60, S-3, F/A-18 and MZ-3A. He is a Kentucky Colonel and is authorized to wear the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation (two awards), as well as various other unit, service, and campaign decorations. He is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community (APC) and Level III certified in Systems Engineering, Test & Evaluation and Program Management.